[English]

I am just giving the information that the duties of these two items are reduced. Because of that they are facing more competition in the open market. The problem is that they had 469.63 hectares of mining area for which the lease is cancelled. They had that lease before but was cancelled for certain reasons — given by the State Government. They have complied with all those regulations. They have submitted a programme to the Union Ministry. That programme is approved by the Ministry of Mines. They have also asked for global tender for a joint venture so that they do not have to look for a budgetary support alone. I feel that this company is surviving only because of the work force. Mosabani mines and its company are going to be shut down very soon. The management wants to shift all the work force from Mosabani mines to Chapri and Siddheswar area and their whole expansion plan depends only on the lease of this area. I do not see any reasons why this lease should not be given to a company which is a Government of India undertaking and the same lease should be considered. Why should it be considered for the private company called Sterlite Mining Company? The lease was already there with the Government company. It should be given to that company. Otherwise this company faces closure very soon and there is a growing anxiety and a fear of unemployment among ten thousand employees of this company.

As you know, in Bihar and especially in this part of Bihar nothing else is happening. Only mining is happening and I do not think it is fair enough to shut down even this business which is going on very fast. Thank you.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, I would like to know whether you want to avoid lunch hour or not. Rule 377 still remains. *(Interruptions)* What is the consensus of the House? Do you want lunch hour or not, because discussion on budget is yet to commence.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Right now, we have to take up matters under Rule 377 and then discussion under Rule 193. Thereafter discussion on the budget would begin. If we skip lunch hour and take up the matters under Rule 377, it would be better. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is the consensus of the House?

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): What about the promise you have made?...*(Interruptions)* I have not been given the opportunity. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am asking whether lunch hour will be observed or not.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): We will skip the lunch, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Zero-Hour is over.

Now, we take up Matters under Rule 377.

Shri Mangal Ram Premi.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY: Please listen to the grievances of people sitting on Dharna...*(Interruptions)* They are unable to make their both ends meet...*(Interruptions)* Thousands and lakhs of people are suffering and you do not pay any attention towards them. If this is the state of affairs in this House, then surely this is not the place where justice could be done.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2.10 p.m.

13.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

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[Translation]

14.16 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at Sixteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to protect Indian News Print Industry as recommended by the Kelkar Samiti

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI (Bijnore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Indian Newsprint manufacturers, including Hindustan Newsprint, are facing great hardship in selling their newsprint because Government have allowed import of

newsprint custom free under O.G.L. consequent upon this newsprint manufactured in India is gathering dust in the Mills.

I demand that protection should be given to the Indian Newsprint Manufacturers as recommended by the Kelkar Committee.

[English]

(ii) Need to exempt Kerala State from the purview of Coastal Zone Regulations

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram): The Coastal Zone Regulations being implemented by the Ministry of Environment is causing great hardship to the States like Kerala. Kerala, a coastal State, having 700 kms. of coastal line as its border, finds it impossible to comply with the restrictions being imposed for construction in the Coastal Zone. According to a recent court decision, 500 metres from the High tide Zone only is permitted for any construction. Kerala coasts are so thickly inhabited by the fishermen housing colonies and commercial constructions attached to fishing and fisheries industry, the restriction for any construction along the coastal line and also on the banks of backwaters and rivers will affect the tourism potential of Kerala to a great extent. Backwater tourism is considered to be the most potential thing of the future for the economy of Kerala. Due to present restriction, no construction is possible within 200 metres from the backwaters.

The Ministry of Environment may formulate appropriate policy leaving out coastal States like Kerala from this restriction and regulating the constructions keeping in mind problems of the States like Kerala instead of mechanically implementing the so-called policy which will hamper the economic growth of the State.

(iii) Need to sanction more funds out of Central Road Funds to Andhra Pradesh

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Sir, the Ministry of Surface Transport in their letter dated 3.1.1989 to the State Governments informed that as per the revised resolution of Parliament passed on 13.5.1988, a sum of Rs. 202.86 crore is to accrue annually to Andhra Pradesh under Central Road Fund. The Ministry of Surface Transport had requested the Andhra Pradesh Government to draw up a list of works to be included under the programme for a period of six years from 1989-90 to 1994-95. The Andhra Pradesh Government as per guidelines communicated by the Ministry of Surface Transport, forwarded 25 items of work to the Government of India for the release of funds under the Central Road Fund.

Sir, the Government of India sanctioned only six items of work to the tune of Rs. 20.09 crore so far. The Andhra Pradesh Government had urged the Central Government to release Rs. 80 crore in 1995-96 for repairing the road system in our State which has been severely damaged but this amount has not been released so far. Further the remaining 19 items of work have not been approved by the Government of India so far which shows that the directive of the Government of India that Rs. 202.86 crore to be released annually to Andhra Pradesh Government under the Central Road Fund is not being adhered to. This has created a great problem in the State for development of roads. I, therefore, urge the Government that they should immediately approve the remaining 9 items of works which have been sent to them by Andhra Pradesh and also release the amount regularly for the development of roads in Andhra Pradesh as per the resolution of Parliament.

(iv) Need for Action Plan for regular dredging of the silt and sand deposited in the catchment area of Durgapur Barrage, West Bengal

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, in order to save thousands of acres of agricultural lands in the districts of Bankura and Burdwan in West Bengal and for the development of industry, the Durgapur barrage was conceived over Damodar river in the year 1957, with an object to store water in rainy season and to distribute water for irrigation in the dry season. But since its inception, no action whatsoever has been taken to dredge the silt at the catchment area of Damodar river. As a result, the holding capacity has gone down to a great extent. In the year 1978, the people who need to live in the embankments of Damodar river had witnessed an unprecedented flood situation. Not only the adduct of the barrage collapsed and thousands of acres of agricultural lands were submerged but also huge layers of sands were left on the agricultural lands and thus, diminishing the fertility of the lands perpetually. In the last week of September 1995, villages namely Kuldia, Pinguri, Madhavpur, Navpara under Maliara Gram Panchayat, Jalanpur under Barjon Gram Panchayat and Mana under Pokhannya Gram Panchayat were again submerged under flood water leaving tons of sand on the agricultural lands afterwards. It is noteworthy to mention here that most of the people of these areas are poor agricultural labourers and they simply turned to be out of employments for ever as the fertility of the lands is finished for ever. There are reports of formations of in-numerous crack zones in and around the embankment areas of Patrasayer and Sonamukhi Panchayat Samity areas in the district of Bankura. Already hundreds of acres of lands have gone down in the Damodar river for ever. In order to save the lives, properties and agricultural lands of the local people and for the development of industry, both in Durgapur and Barjora areas, I demand immediate action plan for regular dredging of the silt and sand deposited for years in the catchment areas of Durgapur barrage.

(v) Need to televise programmes through L.P.Ts throughout the day particularly at Martandam, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): Sir, in several low power transmission centres in this country, there is no full time transmission programme. It is carried out only for a short